

*File 1  
Disaster  
Planning*

*cc: Dc 2*

ODP 9-1304  
31 August 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM: Bruce T. Johnson  
Director of Data Processing, DDA

SUBJECT: Disaster Planning

1. Danny May shared with me your recent report to the DCI on Emergency and Wartime Arrangements, with particular reference, as you might expect, to the paragraph on computer support. He has suggested that I let you know of our strong interest in the subject of disaster planning, and our willingness to tackle the problems noted in your report once we have a clearer picture of what kinds of computer support CIA would expect and need in wartime.

2. ODP identifies three levels of emergency, each calling for a different kind of planning. Part of our daily routine is the production of backup and history tapes designed to ensure that vital data will not be lost in the event of a computer malfunction. Not so well developed is planning for localized disaster, usually equated with serious fire or water damage in one of our computer centers. Our first line of defense against this kind of emergency is systems compatibility and interchangeability, so that in the event of the closing of part or all of one of our centers we could bring up essential services on other machines or in our second center. We are working to expand this planning effort and have begun discussions with NSA to ascertain if it might be feasible to plan jointly for expanded backup facilities.

3. In planning for these kinds of emergencies, we assume that the rest of CIA will be conducting business as usual, and our plans seek to minimize the effects of the loss of part of the computer services on which CIA relies so heavily. Planning for wartime computer services must proceed from totally different premises, and must start where your report

suggests all war emergency planning must begin, with a definition of the Director's and the Agency's wartime roles. When those roles have been defined, we will be pleased to participate in any planning effort designed to identify wartime information needs and the computer services which will be required to fill those needs.

/s/ Bruce T. Johnson

Bruce T. Johnson

cc: ADDA

O/D/ODP/BJohnson:ee/8-31-79

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79-2505/2

ODP #9-1226

13 August 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Data Processing

FROM: Clifford D. May, Jr.  
Acting Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT: Disaster Planning (C)

*Bruce*

1. This is in response to your 10 August memorandum. (U)

2. Obviously, until the DCI knows whether he has a wartime role with respect to the NCA no one can do much wartime planning. However, I'm assuming that, if the Agency leadership is serious about emergency preparedness, we cannot avoid solving this issue. Accordingly I think we need to begin to look at the possible impact computer-wise of supporting CIA activity in a wartime environment possibly involving a nuclear attack. I'm not suggesting that you independently try to determine wartime computer requirements. Nor am I suggesting that you delay planning for limited disasters while trying to resolve the wartime issue. I am suggesting that you keep the possible wartime scenario in mind if you get into serious discussions with NSA on a remotely located alternate computer site. (C)

3. I think it is too early to send anything to the DCI on this subject. However, it might be a good idea to send something to  telling him we are ready to work on the problem noted in his report as soon as a clearer picture of wartime computer requirements emerges. (C)

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Clifford D. May, Jr.

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ODP 9-1200  
10 AUG 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director for Administration

FROM : Bruce T. Johnson  
Director of Data Processing

SUBJECT : Disaster Planning

REFERENCE : Your memo dtd 27 July 79, same subject  
DD/A 79-2505

1. Your memorandum of 27 July on this subject appears to suggest that ODP take the initiative to "obtain a better handle on what CIA computers would be expected to do in the event of a nuclear attack." I agree that effective planning for computer service in the event of a disaster should start with a statement of the requirements to be met under emergency circumstances but I am uneasy about independent action to determine what those requirements would be.

STATINTL

2. We have just received the final version of [ ] memorandum to the DCI on Emergency and Wartime Arrangements. In the final report he includes the observation, which we had previously seen in his draft, noting the dependence of NFAC analysts on computer systems. In his recommendations, however, [ ] puts his first emphasis on the basic policy issue of the relationship between the DCI and the National Command Authority. He states that we need to address "deficiencies in our present plans, arrangements, and facilities," but notes that "This second task cannot be carried out without some progress on the first."

STATINTL

3. Independent efforts by ODP to identify wartime computer requirements are likely to be met with indifference in the absence of an Agency-wide statement of intent to build a plan of action for the Agency as a whole. Perhaps we should use the central role of the computer as a reason for urging the Director to undertake such a planning effort. If you wish, I will try to prepare a memorandum on this subject for the DDA to submit to the DCI.

4. We really need to plan for two kinds of disasters, as I see it, limited and local problems (such as a bad fire in the Ruffing Center), and national disasters (nuclear attack). We need requirements for both kind of plans, but those for limited, emergency service after a fire will be much easier to develop than those for wartime service. Before we seek the latter kind of requirements we need to have an Agency commitment to such planning.

5. We will, of course, continue our dialogue with NSA on the matter as you urge us to do in your memorandum. We will also keep this subject visible during our strategic planning discussions with Office of Communications. Please let me know if you want me to draft a proposal for submission to the DCI.

/s/ Bruce T. Johnson

Bruce T. Johnson

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DD/A Registry  
79-2505

ODP # 9-1144

27 July 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Office of Data Processing

FROM: Clifford D. May, Jr.  
Associate Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT: Disaster Planning

*Bruce*

1. In [ ] report to the DCI on Exercise REX-79, he is critical of the non-availability of computer-based files at the Agency relocation site thus making it impossible to fulfill a key part of the Agency mission in a nuclear war emergency. [ ] 20 July memorandum regarding his meeting at NSA summarized his discussions on Disaster Planning. He said that NSA was looking for a remotely located computer site as an alternate, possibly for use by both CIA and NSA.

2. I think it would be worthwhile to continue a dialogue with NSA on this matter. Concurrently, we should try to obtain a better handle on what CIA computers would be expected to do in the event of a nuclear attack and relocation of the Agency Headquarters. Perhaps we might be able to arrive at a common solution to both normal disaster backup and a wartime emergency operating base.

3. In addition, there may be something to be gained, if you move in the direction of a remote site, in coordinating with Communications on their emergency planning. They will be looking at the possibility of building an alternate [ ] If they do this it might be a good site for a backup computer facility because it will be well-served with telecommunications channels.

4. We may not have any reasonable hope of getting money for emergency backup facilities, but I don't think this should cause us to turn off our planning. At least we should have some idea of what we would like to do if we could afford it.

[ ]  
Clifford D. May, Jr.

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